



State of Utah

Department of Natural Resources

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NEWS RELEASE

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COMPROMISE REACHED ON OIL AND GAS LEASING IN GREAT SALT LAKE

The Utah Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands has reached an agreement with environmental groups and lessees on oil and gas leasing on Great Salt Lake. Under terms of the agreement more than 116,000 acres of land eligible for lease will be held in abeyance from leasing while just over 55,000 acres of land will go forward with leasing. The amount of land eligible for lease was originally set as part of a Great Salt Lake Mineral Leasing Plan established in 1996. The suspended acreage will remain in abeyance until that plan can be reconsidered and revised if required.

"The Mineral Leasing Plan is ten years old," said Joel Frandsen, State Forester and Director of the Division of Forestry, Fire and State Lands. "It's time to take a look to see if there's new information or new issues concerning the division's public trust responsibilities and the mineral resources of the Great Salt Lake."

The division has been working on a settlement since January with environmental groups and attorneys from Patton Boggs, LLP representing W.G. Boonenberg and MAB Resources, LLC, who have successfully bid on some of the previously offered leases. Environmental groups involved include Friends of the Great Salt Lake, National Audubon Society, Utah Chapter of the Sierra Club and the Great Salt Lake Audubon Society

Before any operator could begin drilling for oil and gas in a leased area a permit would still need approval from the Division of Oil, Gas and Mining.

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Great Salt Lake Oil and Gas Settlement Map May 2006

